

Carla Gomez
Clerk and Recorder
Saguache County, Colorado

OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR SAGUACHE COUNTY
CENTER SCHOOL DIST. 26JT RECALL ELECTION
MARCH 17, 2015

WARNING

Any person who, by use of force or other means, unduly influences an eligible elector to vote in any particular manner or to refrain from voting, or who falsely makes, alters, forges, or counterfeits any mail ballot before or after it has been cast, or who destroys, defaces, mutilates, or tampers with a ballot is subject, upon conviction, to imprisonment, or to a fine, or both, 1-7.5-107(3)(b), C.R.S.

INSTRUCTION TO VOTERS:

1. To vote, you must darken the oval completely to the LEFT of your choice. Make the mark clear and distinct. ()
 2. If more than the allowable number of ovals are darkened, votes for that question or issue will not be counted.
- EXAMPLE: Vote for "ONE" means only one oval may be darkened.

DIRECTOR DISTRICT B

Statement of Grounds for the Recall of School Board Director District B James Sanchez

We the Recall Committee of the Center Consolidated School District 26JT request the removal from representation on the Board of Education of District B director James Sanchez for the following reasons:

1. For consistently casting votes against the best interests of all district students without seeking to clarify concerns voiced by individuals, and by continually focusing their efforts on the needs of only a few constituents.
2. For constantly creating discord among board, staff, students, and community members with continual efforts to present educational outcomes of the Center School District to the larger community in an unfavorable light despite comprehensive CDE accreditation evidence to the contrary.
3. For failing to represent the school district and community's best interests as voiced by a large contingent of constituents attending school board meetings, personally writing to them, expressing opinions to them in public forums, and contacting them by phone.
4. For pushing forth personal agendas aimed at unseating highly effective district administrators despite a complete lack of evidence supporting these efforts.
5. Should Sanchez continue to exert negative influence on the board of education, the Center School District will suffer a mass exodus of highly trained, qualified, and effective administrators and teachers.

School Board Director District B James Sanchez's Statement

My responsibility as a Center School Board member is to think about the best interest of Center students and the Center School District. I have continually expressed opinions and questions voiced to me by the constituents who elected me. We have acquired health insurance for classified staff and purchased buses to insure students' safety because of the questions and concerns I have raised. I have voted with the rest of the board 99% of the time on the superintendent's resolutions including staff hiring and staff pay increases. I have been labelled disruptive because I have raised questions about the Alternative to Expulsion Program in which students are placed in isolation cells for up to 7 hour per day for up to 10 weeks. I have also questioned the academic performance of Center students. I want all Center students to succeed. My concerns are the academic excellence and well-being of all Center students. For these reasons, I do not feel I should be recalled. Thank you. James Sanchez

Recall Question

Shall James Sanchez be recalled from the office of Center Consolidated School District 26JT Board of Education Director District B?

YES

NO

SUCCESSOR CANDIDATE

Candidates nominated to succeed James Sanchez should he be recalled:
(Vote for One)

Misty Jo Montoya-Palacios

Write-in

DIRECTOR DISTRICT C

Statement of Grounds for the Recall of School Board Director District C Yuridia Cendejas

Yuridia Cendejas as a Center School Board Member has demonstrated a lack of concern for the low TCAP and ACT scores of the Center school students. Her unwillingness to participate in school board discussions during board meetings and her failure to question such low scores. Yuridia Cendejas has failed to work with all board members and is not a team player. Her behavior has created a negative work environment and low moral during school board meetings. Mrs Cendejas will not question important issues presented before the school board, will not voice her opinions before she enters her vote. As an elected board member we represent our constituents and need to voice their beliefs and concerns on all issues. She has failed to do this, therefore we the undersigned voters call for Yuridia Cendejas to be recalled from her office of Center School Board member.

School Board Director District C Yuridia Cendejas' Statement

Please vote against this effort to remove me from my position on the Center School Board. Sanchez and Varoz are recalling me in retaliation to a citizens group that is holding them accountable for their poor behavior. Their petitions, about which they lied to many people when collecting signatures, claim I am not concerned about student achievement scores, I don't ask enough questions at meetings, and my behavior has somehow created a hostile work environment on the school board.

The facts are that my children attend Center Schools and I deeply care how they and their classmates are learning. I closely watch our state test results and know enough about them to understand the gains Center Schools has made in the past few years have helped the district to become fully accredited by the state of Colorado. Center is even held up as a model for how school districts CAN grow student achievement despite the challenges of high poverty and large numbers of English Language Learners.

Despite these facts Sanchez and Varoz have continually attacked our excellent teachers, saying they should be "embarrassed" of the results they are achieving. They have even gone so far as to ask our effective and well-respected superintendent of schools to resign from his position. Because I have not caved in to their pressure, and because I choose to seek information and ask questions about board agenda items prior to the actual meetings being held, Sanchez and Varoz feel that I am not a good board member and I have somehow created a hostile environment. The truth is they are creating this hostile environment, both for the rest of our board members, and for the good teachers and administrators who work extremely hard each day to grow our children academically.

Yuridia Cendejas

Recall Question

Shall Yuridia Cendejas be recalled from the office of Center Consolidated School District 26JT Board of Education Director District C?

YES

NO

SUCCESSOR CANDIDATE

Candidates nominated to succeed Yuridia Cendejas should she be recalled:
(Vote for One)

Annette Torrez

Write-in

VOTE BOTH SIDES

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DIRECTOR DISTRICT AT LARGE

Statement of Grounds for the Recall of School Board Director District At Large Philip O Varoz

We the Recall Committee of the Center Consolidated School District 26JT request the removal from representation on the Board of Education of at-large director Philip O. Varoz for the following reasons:

1. For consistently casting votes against the best interests of all district students without seeking to clarify concerns voiced by individuals, and by continually focusing their efforts on the needs of only a few constituents.
2. For constantly creating discord among board, staff, students, and community members with continual efforts to present educational outcomes of the Center School District to the larger community in an unfavorable light despite comprehensive CDE accreditation evidence to the contrary.
3. For refusing to represent the school district and community's best interests as voiced by a large contingent of constituents attending school board meetings, personally writing to them, expressing opinions to them in public forums, and contacting them by phone.
4. For pushing forth personal agendas aimed at unseating highly effective district administrators despite a complete lack of evidence supporting these efforts.
5. Should Varoz continue to exert his negative influence on the board of education, the Center School District will suffer a mass exodus of highly trained, qualified, and effective administrators and teachers.

School Board Director District At Large Phil Varoz's Statement

Responsibility as a school board member is to oversee the education, safety and welfare of Center school students and to review the way tax dollars are spent. I have upheld this responsibility and should not be recalled. As a board member it is important to listen to parents and community members and ask questions of the administration. I have questioned the academic performance of Center students. Although Center students show some growth, we need to continue to raise our expectations so that all Center students are prepared to continue their education after high school or prepared to enter the work place. All Center students have the ability to be successful if given a good education. This requires honest assessment of student performance levels. I have also questioned the Alternative Expulsion Program. This program has been in existence since 1998 and yet until this year no board members have spoken on behalf of students placed in isolation cells for up to 7 hours a day for up to 10 weeks. This administration continues this program. Since elected a year ago I raised the issues of hiring more teachers in order for class size to be reduced, purchasing more buses because of an aging bus fleet and for student safety concerns, and providing health insurance for the classified staff. We successfully prioritize district funds for these expenditures. I feel the community needs to be informed about district matters. Other board members have been bullied off the board because they asked tough questions. I was asked to run for the school board because of my educational background, to ask the tough questions, to review student achievement and oversee the expenditures of tax dollars. I have tried to do this. Thank you, Phil Varoz.

Recall Question

Shall Phil Varoz be recalled from the office of Center Consolidated School District 26JT Board of Education Director District At Large?

☐ YES

☐ NO

SUCCESSOR CANDIDATE

Candidates nominated to succeed Phil Varoz should he be recalled:
(Vote for One)

☐ G. Lyn Bogle

☐ Write-In

VOTE BOTH SIDES